

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Plaintiffs,  
v.  
Defendants.

Case No. CV  
SCHEDULING MEETING OF  
COUNSEL  
[FRCP 16, 26(f)]  
SCHEDULING CONFERENCE  
set for, at 10:30 a.m.  
[FRCP 26(f)]

This action has been assigned to the calendar of United States District Judge Percy Anderson. The responsibility for the progress of litigation in the federal courts falls not only upon the attorneys in the action, but upon the court as well.

In order “to secure the just, speedy, and inexpensive determination of every action,” (Fed. R. Civ. P. 1), all counsel are hereby ordered to familiarize themselves with the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and the Local Rules of the Central District of California.

Counsel please note the changes made to former Local Rule 6, now superseded, by Fed. R. Civ. P. 16 and 26(f), effective December 1, 2000. A Scheduling Conference is set

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1 for the date and time set forth in the caption.<sup>1/</sup> Counsel shall meet at least twenty-one (21)  
2 days in advance of the Scheduling Conference to prepare a jointly signed report for the court  
3 to be submitted no less than fourteen (14) days before the Scheduling Conference. The  
4 report is to contain the items set forth below. Pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(c), the parties  
5 shall be represented by counsel with authority to enter into stipulations regarding all matters  
6 pertaining to conduct of the case.

7 The joint report to be submitted shall contain the items listed in Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f),  
8 the parties' recommendations and agreements, if any, about the final scheduling order as  
9 listed in Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b)(1) through (6), and those items listed in Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(c)  
10 which counsel believe will be useful to discuss at the Scheduling Conference. Items which  
11 must be listed are the following:

- 12 (1) a listing and proposed schedule of written  
13 discovery, depositions, and a proposed discovery  
cut-off date;
- 14 (2) a listing and proposed schedule of law and motion  
15 matters, and a proposed dispositive motion cut-off  
date;
- 16 (3) a statement of what efforts have been made to  
17 settle or resolve the case to date and what  
18 settlement procedure is recommended pursuant to  
Local Rule 16-14.4 (specifically excluding any  
statement of the terms discussed);
- 19 (4) an estimated length of trial and a proposed date  
20 for the Final Pretrial Conference and for Trial;
- 21 (5) a discussion of other parties likely to be added;
- 22 (6) whether trial will be by jury or to the court;

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24 <sup>1/</sup> Unless there is a likelihood that upon motion by a party the Court would order that  
25 any or all discovery is premature, it is advisable for counsel to begin to conduct discovery  
26 actively before the Scheduling Conference required by Fed. R. Civ. P. 16(b). At the very  
27 least, the parties shall comply fully with the letter and spirit of Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a) and  
28 thereby obtain and produce most of what would be produced in the early stage of discovery,  
because at the Scheduling Conference the Court will impose tight deadlines to complete  
discovery.

- (7) any other issues affecting the status or management of the case; and
- (8) proposals regarding severance, bifurcation or other ordering of proof.

In addition, the Scheduling Conference Report shall contain the following:

- (1) a short synopsis of the principal issues in the case;
- (2) a statement of whether pleadings are likely to be amended;
- (3) a statement as to issues which any party believes may be determined by motion.

At the Scheduling Conference, the court will set a date for discovery cut-off<sup>2/</sup>, a final date by which dispositive motions must be set for hearing, a Final Pretrial Conference date, and a trial date. The parties should also be aware that pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(f), no later than fourteen (14) days after the Scheduling Conference, the parties must submit an agreed discovery plan to the court for approval; this subject will be discussed at the Scheduling Conference. The parties should recommend to the court whether or not the requirement of a discovery plan should be waived.

A continuance of the Scheduling Conference will be granted only for good cause. (Counsel are informed that continuance of the Scheduling Conference causes commensurate delay in the trial date.) **The failure to submit a joint report in advance of the Scheduling Conference or the failure to attend the Scheduling Conference may result in the dismissal of the action, striking the answer and entering a default, and/or the imposition of sanctions.**

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This is not the date by which discovery requests must be served; but the date by which all discovery is to be completed. Any motion challenging the adequacy of discovery responses must be filed timely, served and calendared sufficiently in advance of the discovery cutoff date to permit the responses to be obtained before that date, if the motion is granted. The Court requires compliance with Local Rule 37-1 and 37-2 in the preparation and filing of discovery motions. Except in the case of an extreme emergency which was not created by the lawyer bringing the motion, discovery motions may not be heard on an ex parte basis.

1 A settlement procedure appropriate to the particular case will be used in every civil  
2 action pursuant to Local Rule 16-15.1. In the Scheduling Conference Report, counsel are to  
3 recommend a specific settlement procedure provided for in Local Rule 16-15 which will be  
4 utilized in this case. This Court participates in the Alternative Dispute Resolution Pilot  
5 Program. See General Order 02-07. Accordingly, except in extraordinary circumstances,  
6 the Court will not refer the parties to the Magistrate Judge assigned to this action to conduct  
7 the settlement conference. As a result, in most instances, the available alternatives for  
8 consideration are:

9 Settlement Procedure No. 2:

10 The parties shall appear before an attorney selected  
11 from the Attorney Settlement Officer Panel (Local  
Rule 16-15.4(2); or

12 Settlement Procedure No. 3:

13 The parties shall participate in a non-judicial  
14 dispute resolution proceeding (Local Rule 16-  
15.4(3)).

15 The Court does not utilize Settlement Procedure No. 1 (Local Rule 16-15.4(1), but the  
16 parties are free to seek the Court's approval to engage in an alternative settlement  
17 mechanism not listed in Local Rule 16-15.4.

18 The report to the Court as to the above items should be preceded by a thorough and  
19 frank discussion among the attorneys for the parties. A Joint Scheduling Report which does  
20 not comply with FRCP 16, 26(f) and this Order may cause continuance of the Scheduling  
21 Conference and possible award of sanctions under FRCP 16(f) against the party or parties  
22 responsible.

23 Motions shall be filed in accordance with Local Rule 7. This Court hears motions on  
24 **Mondays, commencing at 1:30 p.m. No supplemental brief shall be filed without prior**  
25 **leave of Court.** No motion shall be noticed for hearing for more than thirty-five (35) days  
26 after service of the motion unless otherwise ordered by the Court. All law and motion  
27 matters, except for motions in limine, must be set for hearing (not filing) by the motion  
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1 cutoff date). Adherence to the timing requirements is mandatory for chambers' preparation  
2 of motion matters.

3 Counsel should take note of the changes to the Local Rules affecting motion practice  
4 in the Central District. Among other things, Local Rule 7-3 requires counsel to engage in a  
5 pre-filing conference “to discuss thoroughly . . . the substance of the contemplated motion  
6 and any potential resolution.” Counsel should discuss the issues sufficiently that if a motion  
7 is still necessary, the briefing may be directed to those substantive issues requiring  
8 resolution by the Court. Counsel should resolve minor procedural or other nonsubstantive  
9 matters during the conference.

10 **Memoranda of Points and Authorities in support of or in opposition to motions**  
11 **shall not exceed 25 pages. Replies shall not exceed 12 pages.** Only in rare instances and  
12 for good cause shown will the Court grant an application to extend these page limitations.  
13 **Typeface shall comply with Local Rule 11-3.1.1. NOTE: If Times Roman font is used,**  
14 **the size must be no less than 14; if Courier is used, the size must be no less than 12.**

15 Footnotes shall be in typeface no more than one size smaller than text size and shall be used  
16 sparingly. Filings which do not conform to the Local Rules and this Order will not be  
17 considered.

18 Counsel are ordered to serve courtesy copies of all electronically filed documents,  
19 and conformed courtesy copies of all manually filed documents, to the courtesy box next to  
20 the entrance to chambers on the Spring Street level of the U.S. Courthouse, 312 North  
21 Spring Street, by 12:00 noon of the business day following filing. Courtesy copies may be  
22 delivered to chambers by either personally delivering them to the courtesy box or sending  
23 them by guaranteed overnight delivery. If a courtesy copy is sent to chambers by guaranteed  
24 overnight delivery, the sender shall notify the delivery service that the signature of the  
25 recipient is not required.

26 Each party filing or opposing a motion or seeking the determination of any matter  
27 shall file a Proposed Order setting forth the relief or action sought and a brief statement of  
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1 the rationale for the decision with appropriate citations. The proposing party shall also  
2 submit a copy of the Proposed Order to the Court's ECF e-mail address, in WordPerfect  
3 format (X3 or earlier versions) or Microsoft Word (Word 2003 or earlier versions).

4 Counsel are reminded ex parte applications are solely for extraordinary relief. See  
5 Mission Power Engineering Co. v. Continental Casualty Co., 883 F. Supp. 488 (C.D. Cal.  
6 1995).

7 Counsel for plaintiff shall immediately serve this Order on all parties, including any  
8 new parties to the action.

9 IT IS SO ORDERED.

10 Date:  
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14 Percy Anderson  
15 UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE  
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Revised: 11/25/02